

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5211

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0264

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC (USSS)

SUBJECT: FOREIGN GOLD COINS

REF: STATE 050145

1. MR SIGUDUR ORN EINARSSON, OFFICE MANAGER OF THE CENTRAL BANK, TOLD EMBOFF THERE ARE TWO GOLD COINS ISSUED AS LEGAL TENDER WHICH ARE STILL REDEEMABLE. ONE IS A 500 KROUNUR GOLD COIN ISSUED IN 1961 TO COMMEMORATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JON SIGURDSSON, AN INDEPENDENCE HERO. EACH OF THE 10,000 COINS ISSUED WAS SOLD AT 50 PER CENT ABOVE FACE VALUE, BUT MAY BE USED AS LEGAL TENDER IF THE OWNER SO DESIRES.

2. A SECOND GOLD COIN FOR 10,000 KRONUR WAS ISSUED IN 1974, AS WERE TWO SILVER COINS, AS A COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE, BUT ALSO AS LEGAL TENDER. 12,000 COINS WERE SOLD AT FACE VALUE. 8,000 COINS WERE SOLD IN SETS WITH THE SILVER COINS AT A PREMIUM.

3. MR EINARSSON SAID HE WOULD SEND THE EMBASSY WHATEVER LITERATURE WAS AVAILABLE DESCRIBING THE COINS AND INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS. THESE WILL IN TURN BE FORWARDED TO ANNE PINKNEY, EUR/NE.
IRVING

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